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From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 3:08 PM
To: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH); Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Subject: RE: GHB technical difficulties
Attachments: Bruce Hannon.doc

Julie,
GHB was done in a routine fashion through September of last year. In early fall 2009, the system failed to produce the expected level of signal for the standards. After manipulating several parameters (changing columns, etc) and performing available diagnostic tests, in house tests suggested the failure of the detector. The detector was sent out for repairs and the pump lent out with the intention of refitting. Upon the return of the pump and detector, reagents were prepared fresh once again and tests were prepared to evaluate the standards for the next test batch. This time the computer interface failed. Mike Norman from IT was unable to get the system to reboot after changing the existing circuit board, indicating a hardware failure in the computer itself.

Bruce Hannon provided another computer. However, Agilent will have to re-install some form of Chem Station compatible to the other components. Bruce and I are not confident that Agilent will be able to re-install any supportable Chem Station to these components. I attached Bruce's summary of the discussion he has had with Agilent. Please note the first alternative is \$1700 if *all components are compatible with a new application of Chem Station*.

If we are able to buy the \$1700 upgrade and it works, I will be able to refresh my reagents and prep samples for a run a week later.

If we must buy a new system, I would like to make the proposal that we should purchase a sample collector at the end of the HPLC run, to recover isolated (relatively pure) GHB for the derivatization necessary for the GC/MS analysis.

Finally, if we can't get a system operating in the Drug Lab, can I collaborate with Paul on his HPLC to do the test?

Mike

From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Monday, August 02, 2010 12:43 PM
To: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Cc: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Subject: GHB technical difficulties

Hi Julie,

I have a question regarding the analysis of GHB samples. We have a few outstanding cases from 2009 that were assigned to a chemist in November. For various technical reasons that analysis has not been able to be completed here in the drug lab. When the respective police departments call (one called today) regarding the status of their case we have been able to delay up until this point. GHB as a Class A drug usually results in serious charges.

It seems that it is unreasonable to continue to offer excuses as to why the analysis cannot be completed. I'm wondering if we can develop a plan B very soon as the indefinite lack of analysis does not reflect well upon the laboratory. I am not well versed on the technical ins and outs of the necessary procedures but believe Michael and Peter would be the contact people for this.

Betsy

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